**Lesson Three: What set the German people up to give up their fledgling democracy so quickly?**

Learning Intentions:

Students will continue to see a pattern in German political history that includes paternalistic, conservative and militaristic leadership.

Success Criteria:

1. Students will understand that Otto von Bismarck was the principal architect of a German state [The Second Reich] which:

-valued the end above consideration of the means.

-preached the necessity for submission to higher authority to ensure success in achieving those ends.

-taught its citizens to believe in their special destiny in Europe.

-saw war as the continuation of diplomacy by other means.

-demonstrated the German ability to overcome obstacles through planning and preparation.

-proved the value of order, system, method and stability.

2. Students will understand that Bismarck and the Kaiser’s Second Reich was the undisputed master, on land, of Europe.

That the last of Europe’s nations was FIRST in importance and pre-eminence with transport and communication systems well in advance of any other nation.

That Germany during the 2nd Reich had an efficient legal system, stable and universal currency and a thriving economy in which its workers were well looked after.

3. Students will understand that a middle-aged German in the 1930’s would have yearned for the security, stability and certainty of the Kaiser’s Germany [The second Reich]. The first Reich was during the time of Frederick the Great.

*SO BACK TO THE STORY……*

*Student Instructions:*

*Please read through the following material carefully. Make bullet point notes from this information and answer the questions and definitions included in the text.*

We saw that Germany was created into being under Prussian control.

The **Hohenzollern monarch** retained the position of **Commander in Chief of the Prussian Army**, but also became **Warlord of all German armed forces** and had the power to commit them to peace or go to war as he thought fit.

Under the Kaiser, and responsible only to the Kaiser, was the **Imperial Chancellor** – at this time **Bismarck.**

Provision was made in the **Imperial government** for a **popularly elected house of representatives known as the Reichstag**, but although this body had powers both to **legislate** and to **control finance,** it **functioned**, in its earliest years of existence at least, as a **rubber-stamp for Bismark**.After all, **the Chancellor’s record** was one of **wholesale success**, and it seemed not inappropriate that **he should have total control over foreign and domestic policy.**

**Internal Politics – The Kulturkampf and Socialism**

In 1870 Bismarck found himself **at odds** with **the Papacy** over what he saw as Catholic attempts to interfere in the internal politics of Prussia. (In your notes please explain what “at odds” means and what ‘the Papacy’ is)

As there could only be one master in the land, according to Bismarck and the Kaiser, Bismarck launched what historians have come to call the **Kulturkampf, or clash of cultures.**

This featured a series of **anti-Catholic measures in the “May Laws**” of 1872-1876 which included:

-state control of the ordination, education and activities of priests. (Explain what “ordination” means.

-The **expulsion from Prussian territories** of those international agents of the Papacy, the **Jesuits.** (google Jesuit and explain what they are in your notes.)

-The removal of the priesthood from education.

-a complete readiness to support any and all of this by **mass imprisonment where necessary!**

The results were mixed and included the **formation of a new political party – The Centre Party,** set up to fight the state in parliament. Realising that **winning this fight would alienate a substantial part of Catholic Germany, Bismarck negotiated a reconciliation with the Pope in 1889.** This saw the **Catholic Church regain much of its former privilege** **in return for the political support of the Centre Party** in his new struggle **against** another foe – **German Socialism**.

Socialism

Germany’s rapid industrial expansion in the wake of unification had seen much social unrest as the nation’s workforce experienced precisely the same problems that Great Britain had faced almost a century earlier. Unrestrained capitalism was not a pretty sight either in Germany or Britain, but it was necessary to the growth of Germany as a world power. The German writers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels clearly pointed out the importance of the **Proletariat** (google and explain what Proletariat means) in their books eg the Communist Manifesto and Capital.

They called for a new and extreme form of socialism – **Communism**.

Marx and Engels proposed that communism was to govern relations between the state and the proletariat.

Neither socialism or communism was acceptable in Bismarck’s philosophy but he accepted the need to **placate** (define placate in your notes) a sector of the population which a state with international ambitions could not do without.

(What is a “sector”? And what do you think “international ambitions” might mean?)

As initial attempts to suppress socialism by his usual “club-wielding” tactics resulted only in increasing the vote for socialist parties, Bismarck introduced **State Socialism in an attempt to weaken electoral support for socialist parties opposing the status quo in Germany.**

This consisted of workplace legislation: insurance against ill-health and old-age pensions.

All of these **measures were designed to keep the workforce happy and convinced that the state was genuinely concerned with its welfare** rather than measures which offered any prospect of power-sharing. (What kind of power-sharing was Bismarck keeping them from?)

BUT Bismarck was unsuccessful and the Socialist vote continued to rise until the eve of World War One.

They became the strongest party in the Reichstag.

But when war broke out – none of this mattered or counted.

The Kaiser’s representation of Germany as a nation threatened by the jealousies of Britain and France made sure that **popular sentiment** (**define popular sentiment in your notes**)lay **entirely with the government and with the All-High**, as Wilhelm II liked to be called! *Crikey, eh!* Wilhelm II, of course, headed the government and the army.

Under the circumstances**, disloyalty** was **not to be countenanced** (explain what that means in your notes please) **by any sector of German Society**…………..

**Kaiser Wilhelm II**

**Bismarck – master diplomat mixed with blood and iron.**



